

CLAIM

A SONG OF IRE AND VICE

#3 OF 4



ALMES WRIGHT DIMITRIEVSKI BIRCH



DEEP WATER
GAMES



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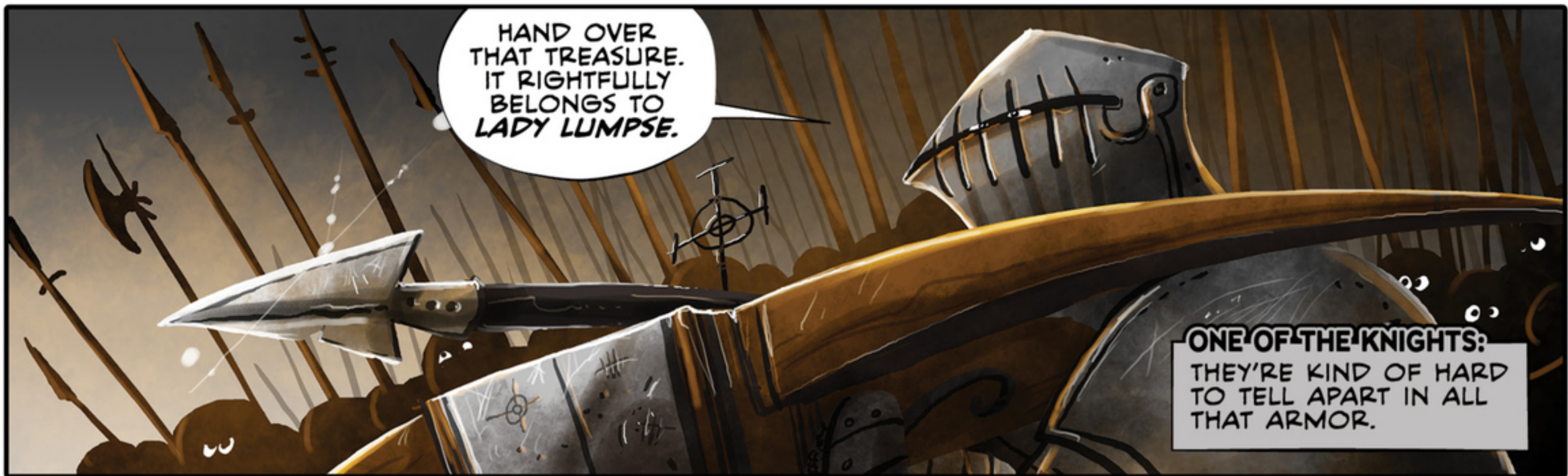
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AREN'T YOU GLAD WE'RE COLLABORATORS? ...



I HEARD THAT DUNGEON AIR IS GOOD FOR THE SINUSES... ...



HEY... IS THAT HOLLY? ...

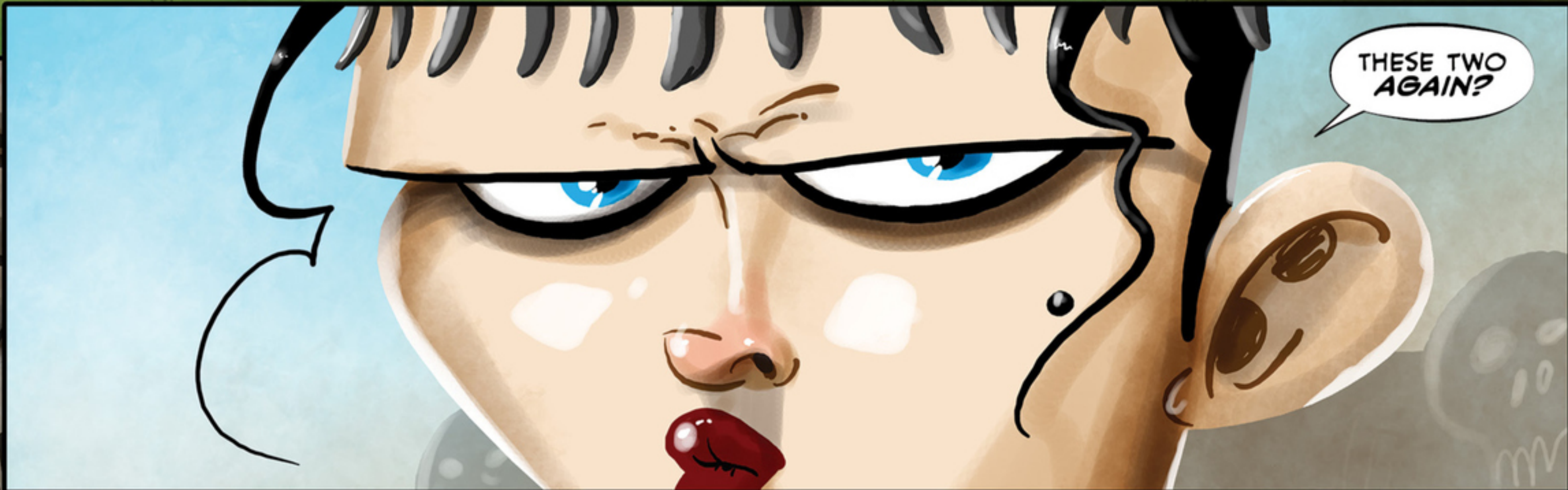


IT IS HOLLY!
HEY, HOLLY, OVER HERE! IN THE CAGE!

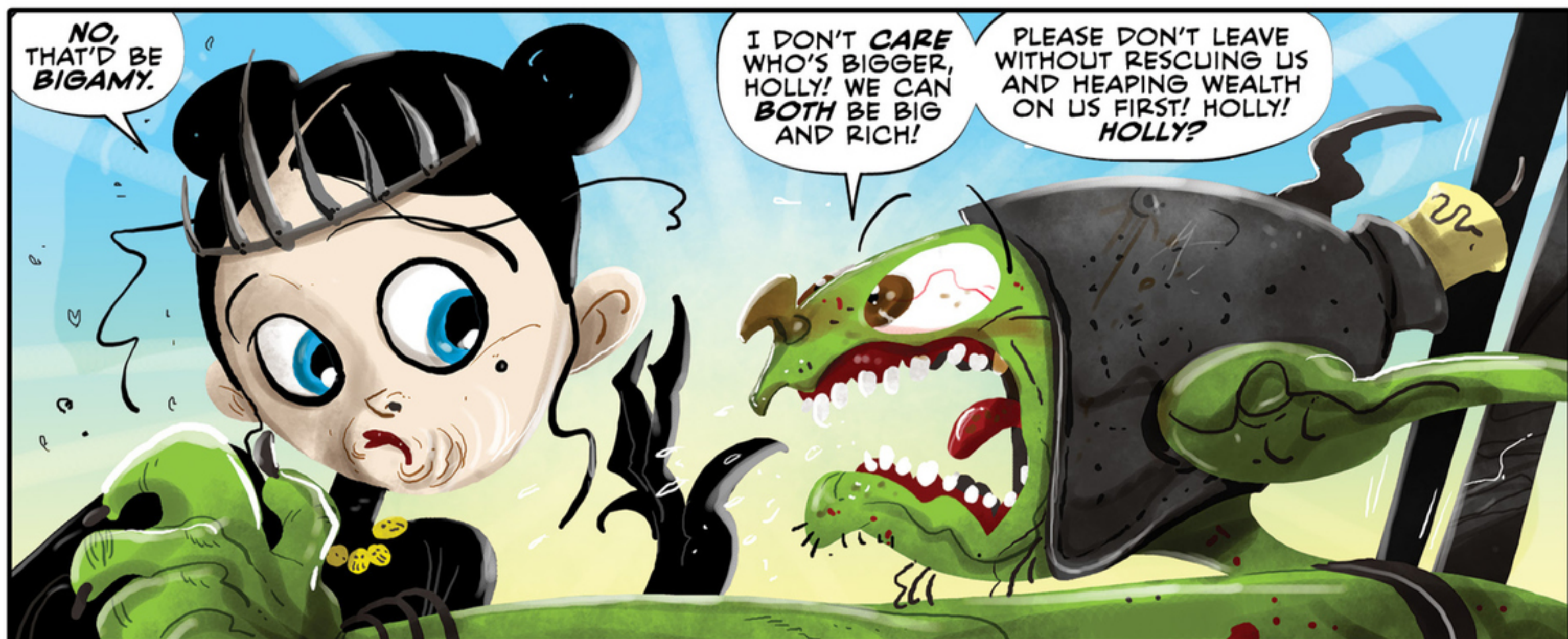
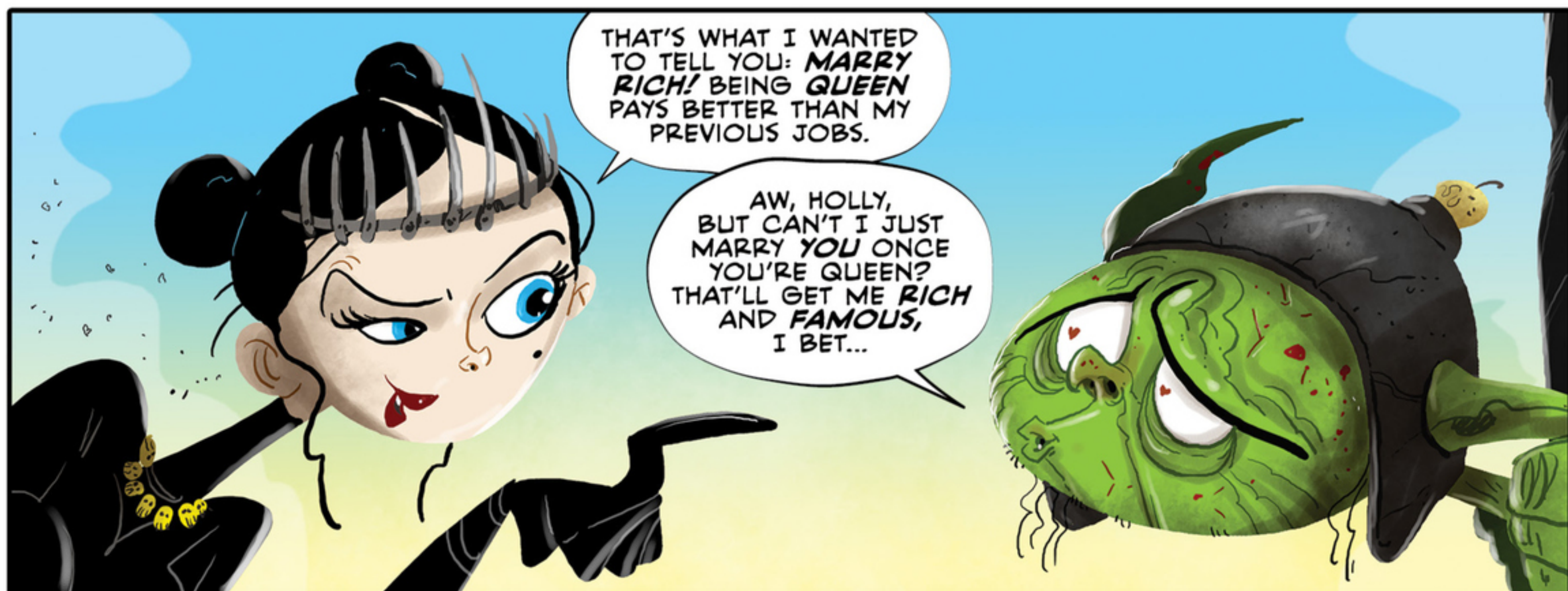
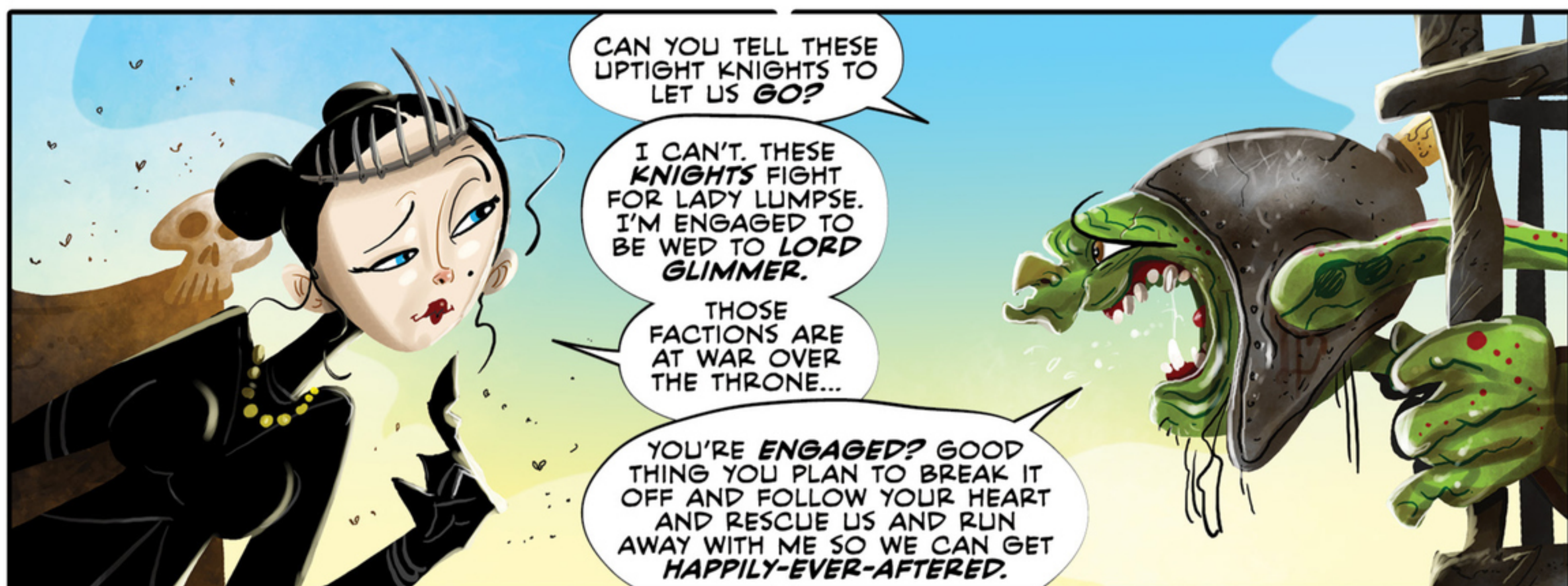
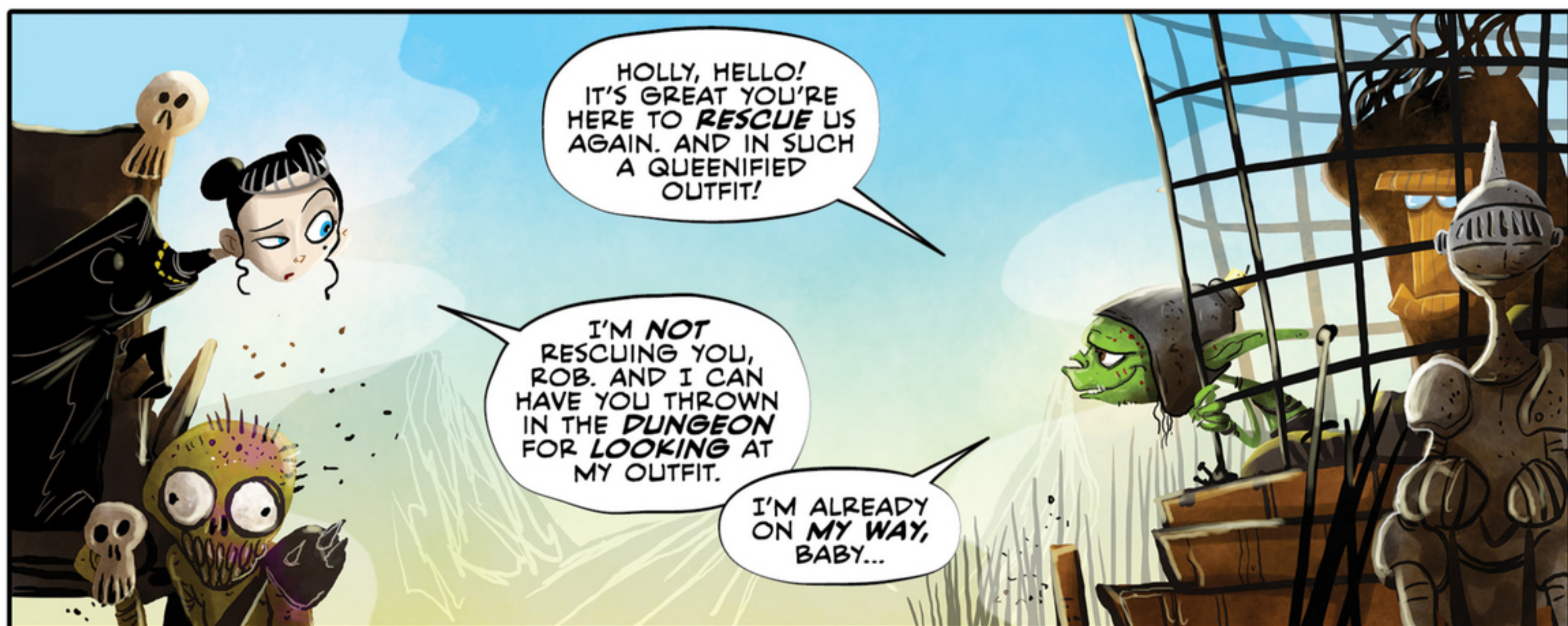
OOF, I KNOW YOU'RE ALL UNCOORDINATED, BUT THIS RIDE IS REALLY ROUGH...
GRUHHH...

HOLLY BRANCH:
FORMER BARMAID, FUTURE QUEEN. CURRENTLY THE HIGHEST ONE IN THE FIELD.

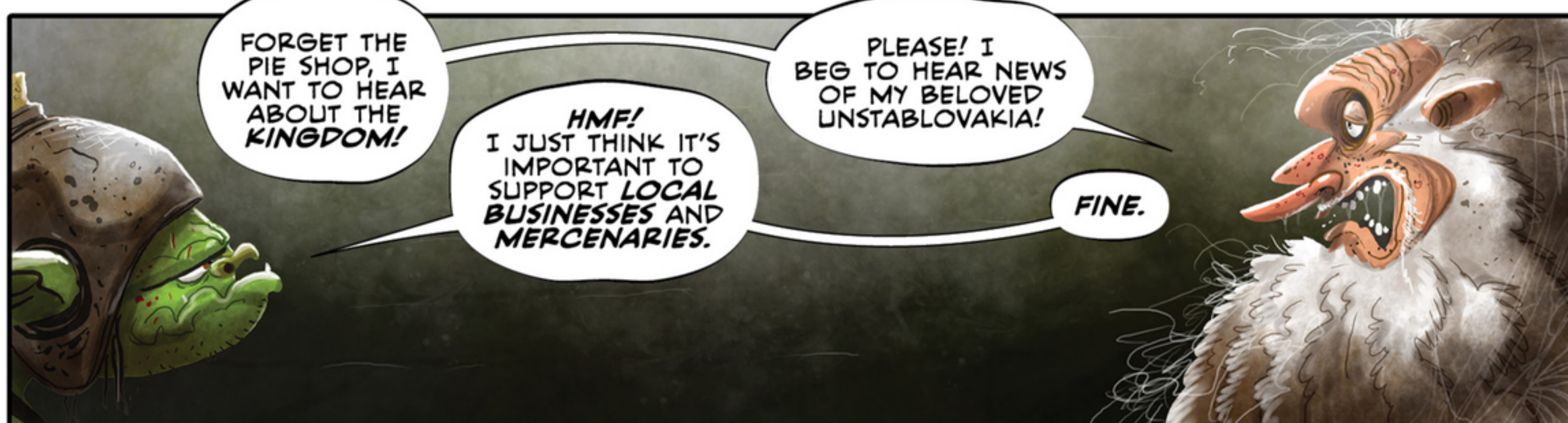
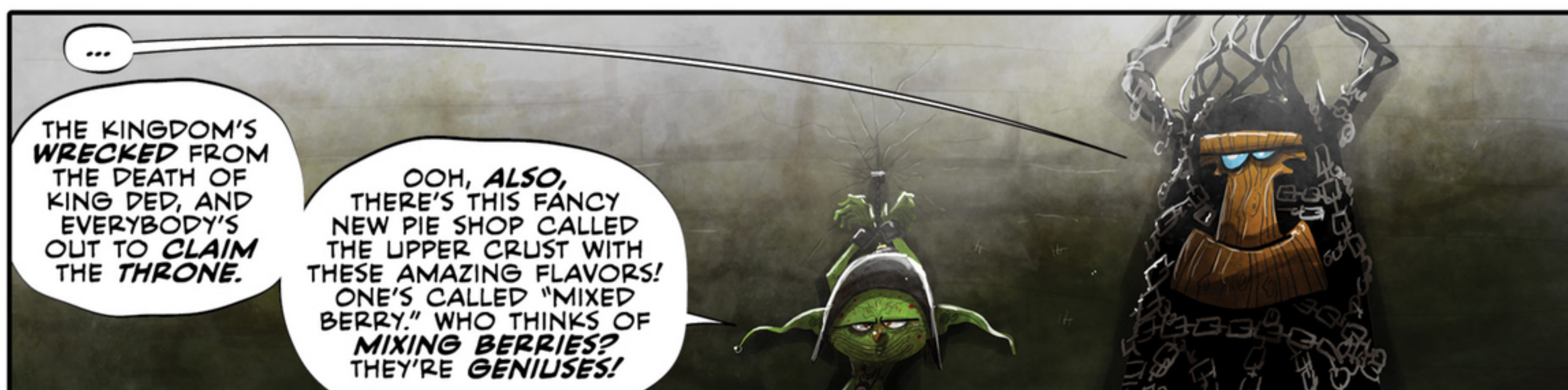
THE UNDEAD:
YEAH, THEY'RE DEAD. THEY'RE... ALL MESSED UP.



THESE TWO AGAIN?







"KING DED
DROWNED IN A
BARREL OF *WINE*
WITH *NO HEIRS*."

"HOW COULD A
BARREL OF *WINE*
HAVE *HEIRS*?"

"THE HEIR OF THE DOG
THAT BIT HIM? SEVERAL
ROYAL IDIOTS TRIED TO
CLAIM THE *THRONE*, BUT
ONLY LADY LUMPSSE AND
LORD GLIMMER ARE LEFT."

LADY LUMPSSE
COMMANDS HER
KNIGHTS, AND
LORD GLIMMER
HAS THE
UNDEAD.

DOP AND I HOPE TO GET
MERCENARY WORK WITH
EITHER, EVEN THOUGH I'M
A *GOBLIN* AND HE'S A
DOPPELGANGER.

A *SHAPESHIFTER*?
CAN HE SHAPE HIS
HAND INTO A KEY
TO UNLOCK THESE
CHAINS?

NOT HOW
IT WORKS,
TINLEY.

IF YOU WANT TO WORK
WITH KNIGHTS, YOU SHOULD
KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF
THEIR CODE OF *HONOR*.

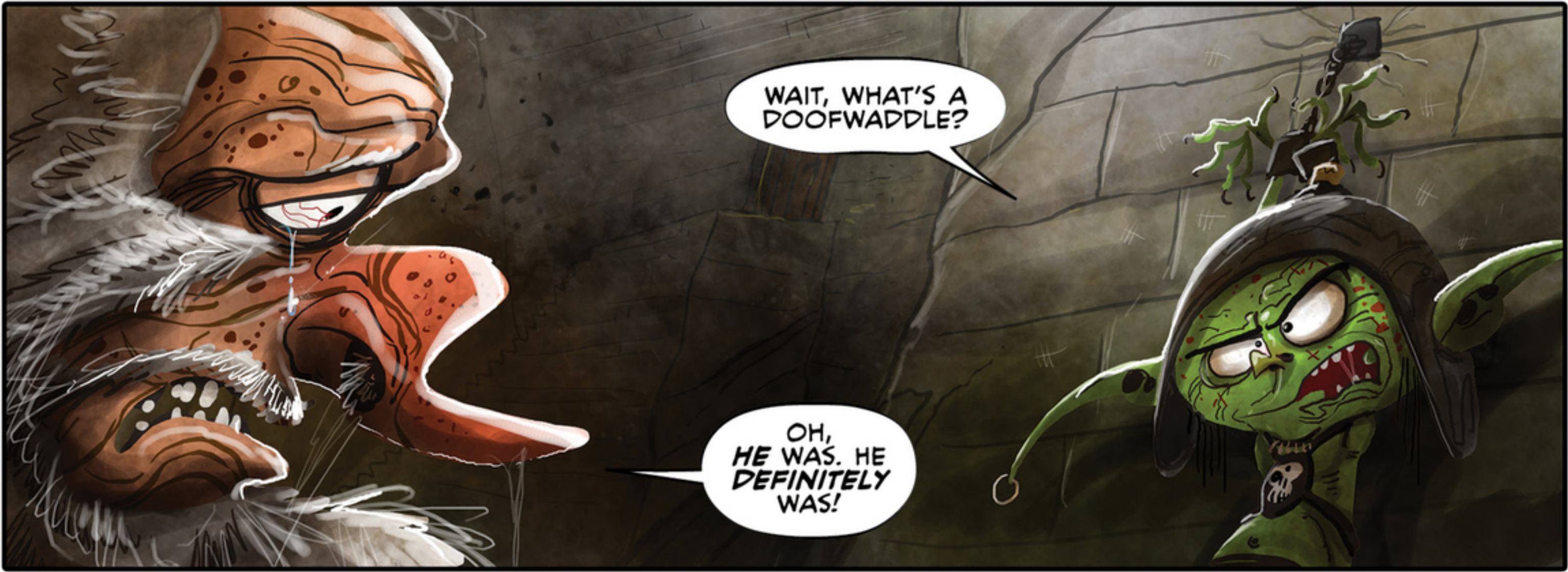
I SHALL TELL
YOU HOW I
CAME TO THIS
DUNGEON...

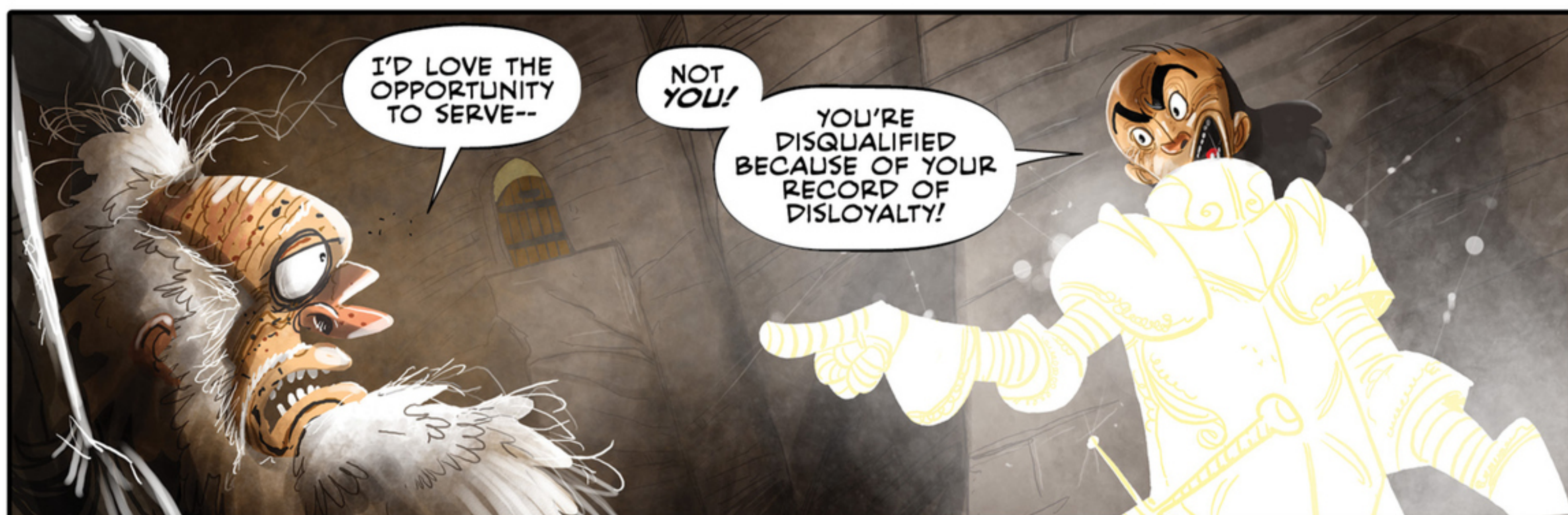
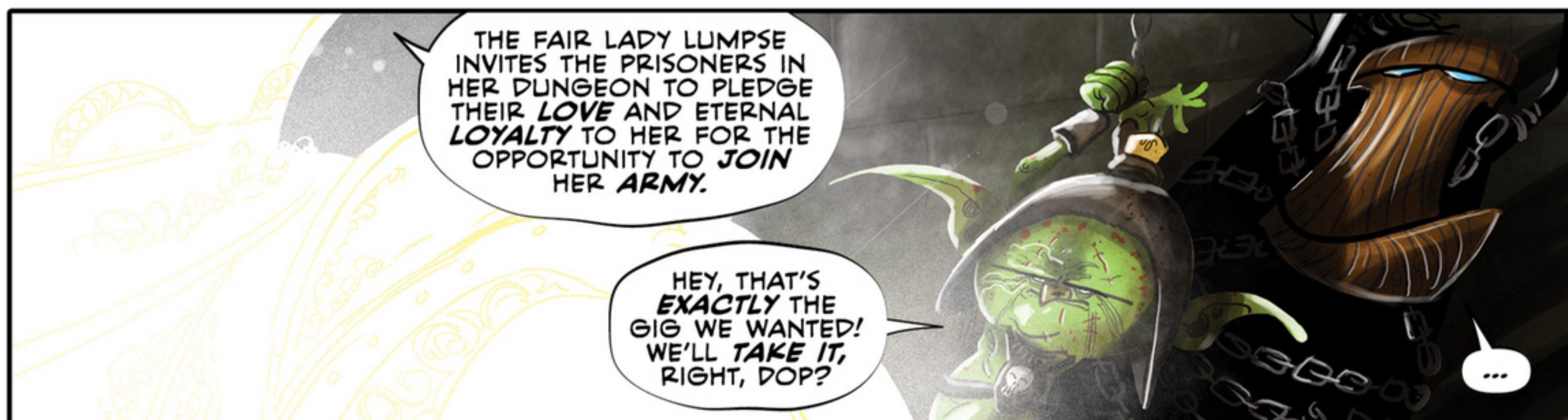
LOOK, PAL, DO
NOT MISTAKE US BEING
IMPRISONED FOR US
BEING *CAPTIVATED*...

OVER 70 YEARS
AGO, I SERVED AS
A KNIGHT WITH SIR
GOOFDAWDEL...

SIR
GOOFDAWDEL?
UGH. *BO-RING!*

I'M SO *BORED*
I FEEL LIKE I'VE
ALREADY BEEN
HERE 70 YEARS
TOO!



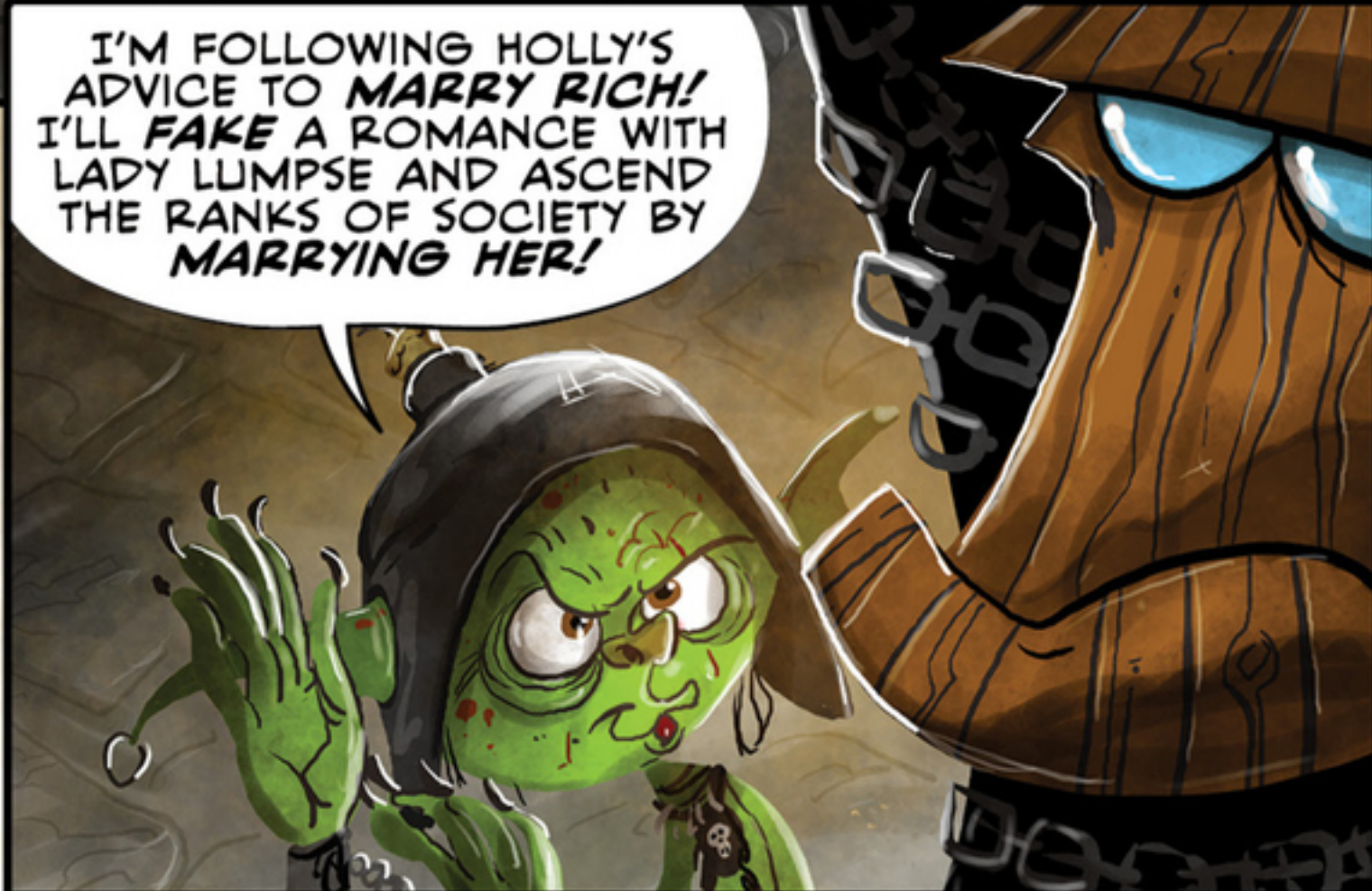




I HAVE
A VERY
CUNNING
PLAN.

WANT
TO HEAR
IT?

...



I'M FOLLOWING HOLLY'S
ADVICE TO **MARRY RICH!**
I'LL **FAKE** A ROMANCE WITH
LADY LUMPSE AND ASCEND
THE RANKS OF SOCIETY BY
MARRYING HER!



I JUST HOPE THAT SHE ISN'T
COMPLETELY HIDEOUS...

OF COURSE, SHE'D
NEVER KNOW I FELT THAT
WAY BECAUSE IN ADDITION
TO BEING **CHARMING**
AND **HANDSOME**, I ALSO
HAVE **AMAZING** ACTING
SKILLS.

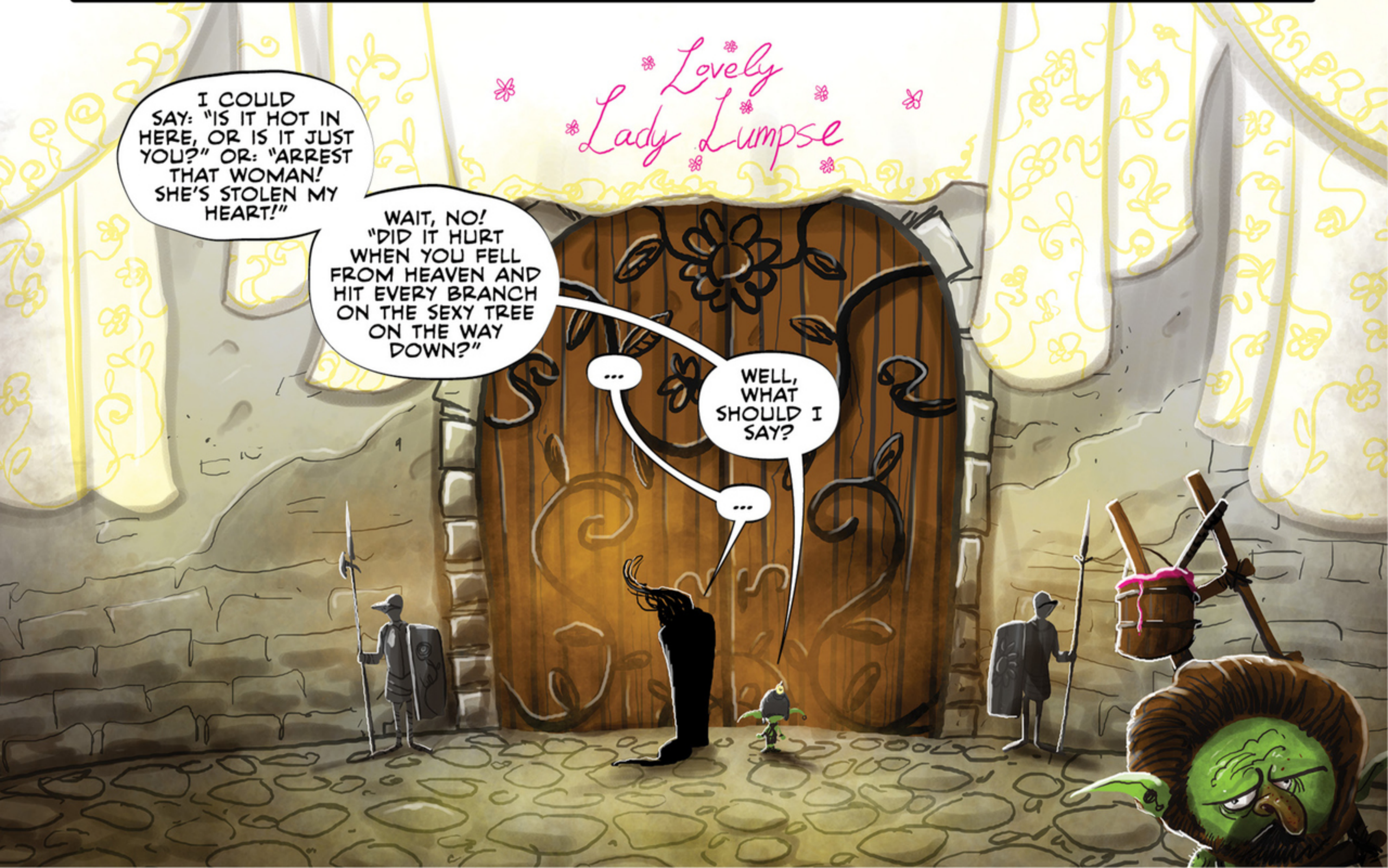
...



OKAY, WHICH OPENING LINE DO
YOU LIKE BETTER? "I WISH I WERE
CROSS-EYED SO I COULD SEE YOU
TWICE." OR: "IT'S NOT JUST
TURKEYS THAT LIKE GOBLIN..."

GET IT?
BECAUSE **I'M**
A GOBLIN?

...



*Lovely
Lady Lumpse*

I COULD
SAY: "IS IT HOT IN
HERE, OR IS IT JUST
YOU?" OR: "ARREST
THAT WOMAN!
SHE'S STOLEN MY
HEART!"

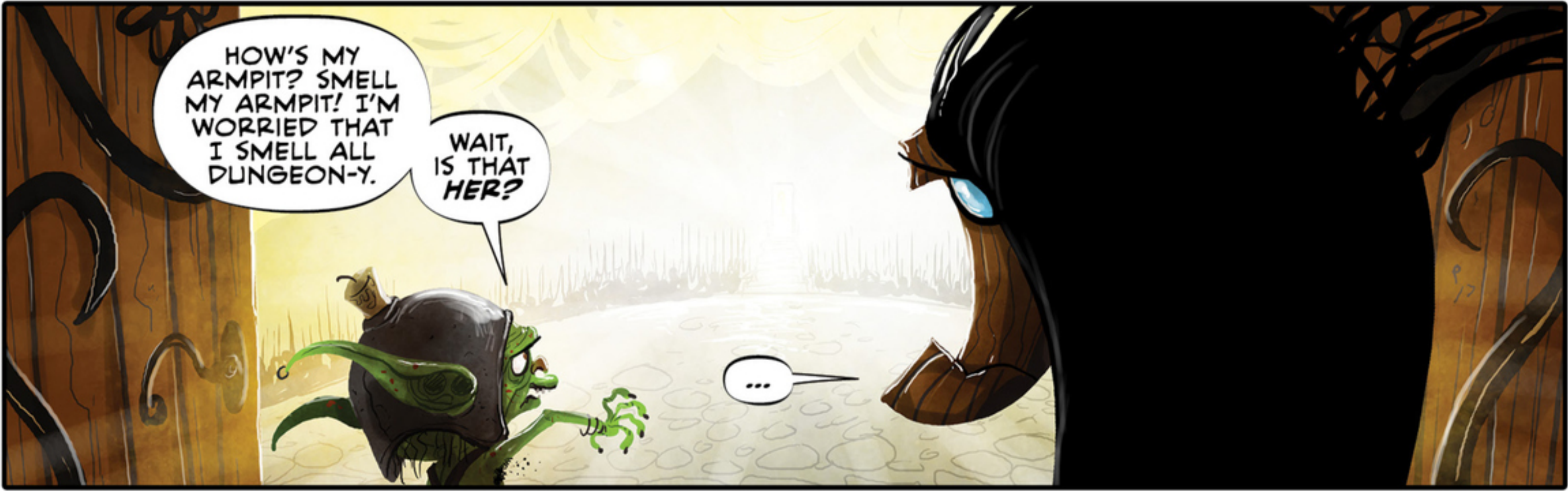
WAIT, NO!
"DID IT HURT
WHEN YOU FELL
FROM HEAVEN AND
HIT EVERY BRANCH
ON THE SEXY TREE
ON THE WAY
DOWN?"

WELL,
WHAT
SHOULD I
SAY?

...

...





HOW'S MY
ARMPIT? SMELL
MY ARMPIT! I'M
WORRIED THAT
I SMELL ALL
DUNGEON-Y.

WAIT,
IS THAT
HER?

...



ARE THESE THE
PRISONERS WHO
WOULD LIKE TO
JOIN **MY ARMY**
OF KNIGHTS?
PLEASE STEP
FORWARD...



I AM SMITTEN.
SMOTE? NO,
SMUDGED.

DO YOU
PLEDGE YOUR
UNDYING
LOYALTY TO--

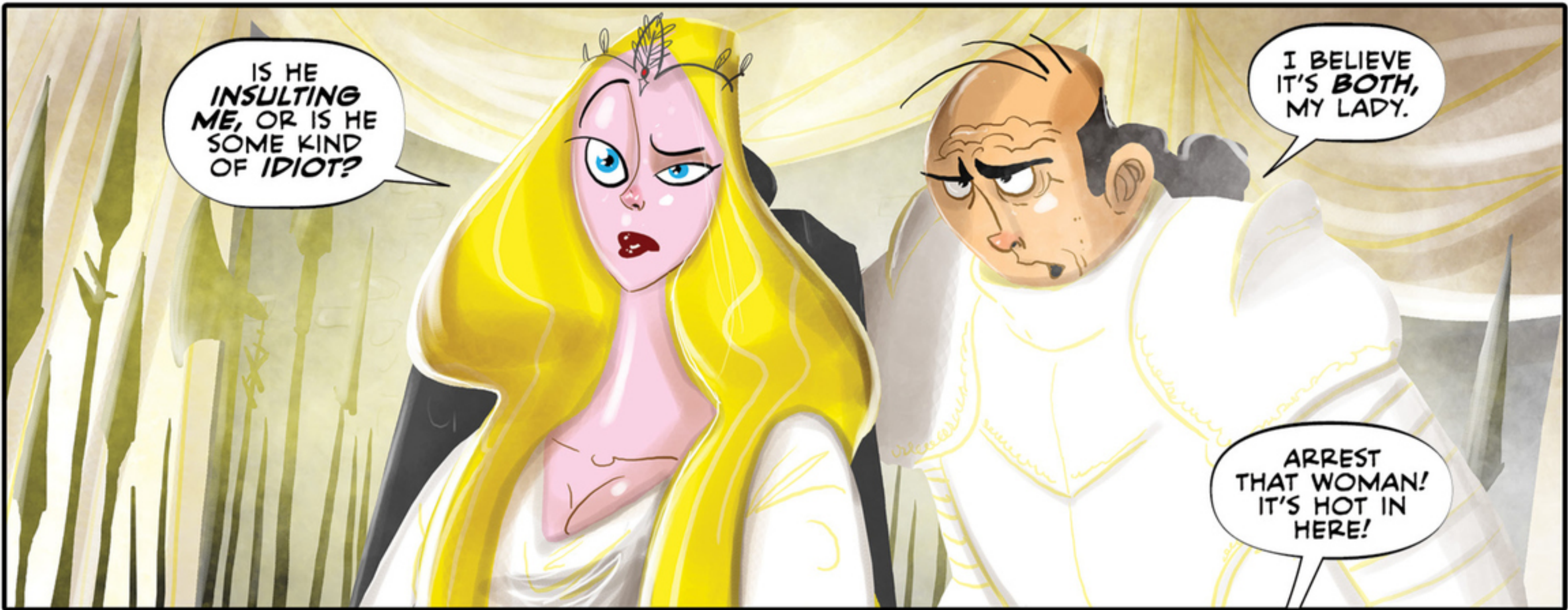
**DID IT HURT
WHEN YOU RIPPED
OUT MY HEART
CROSS-EYED?**

...



WHAT?
IS THAT
SOME SORT
OF CODE
OR--?

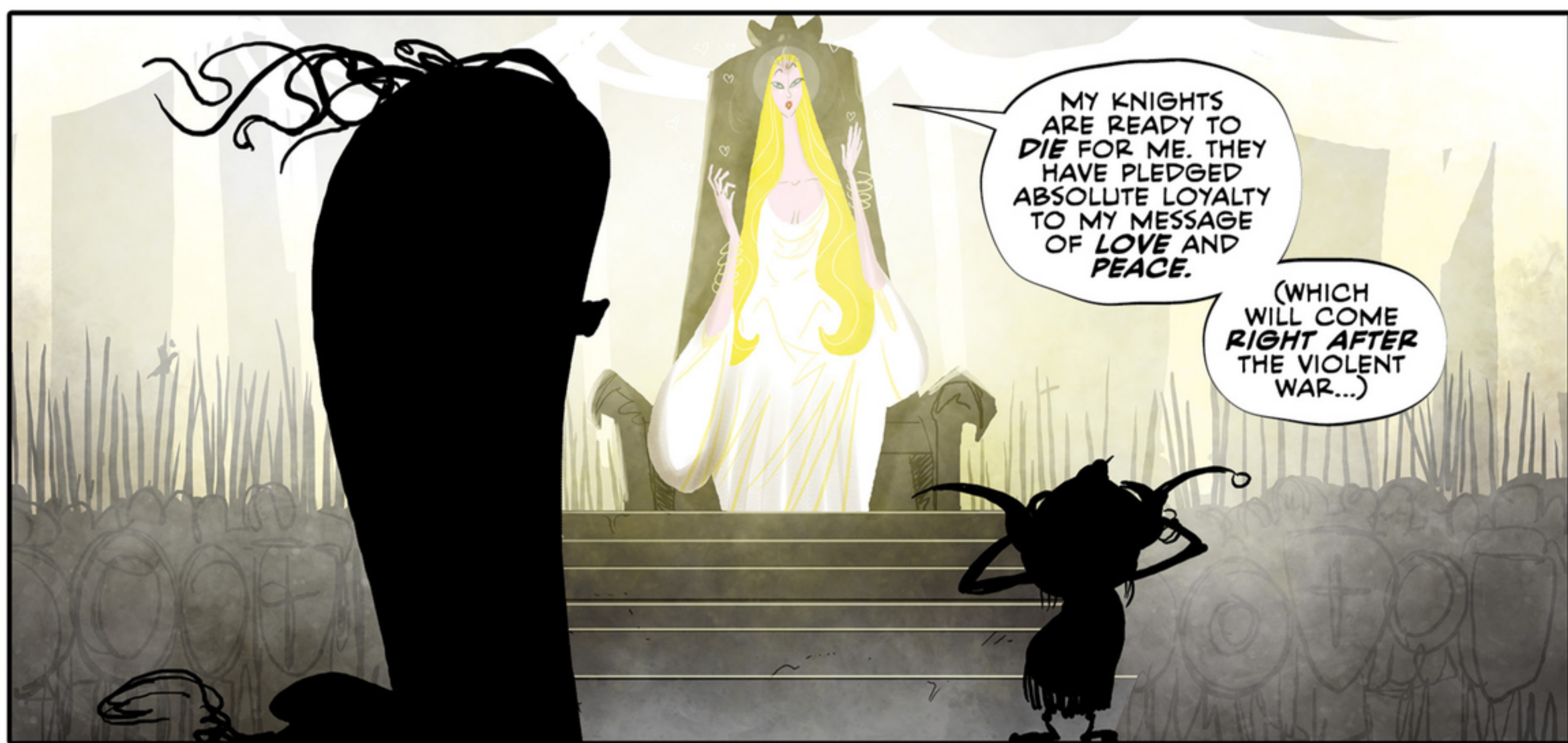
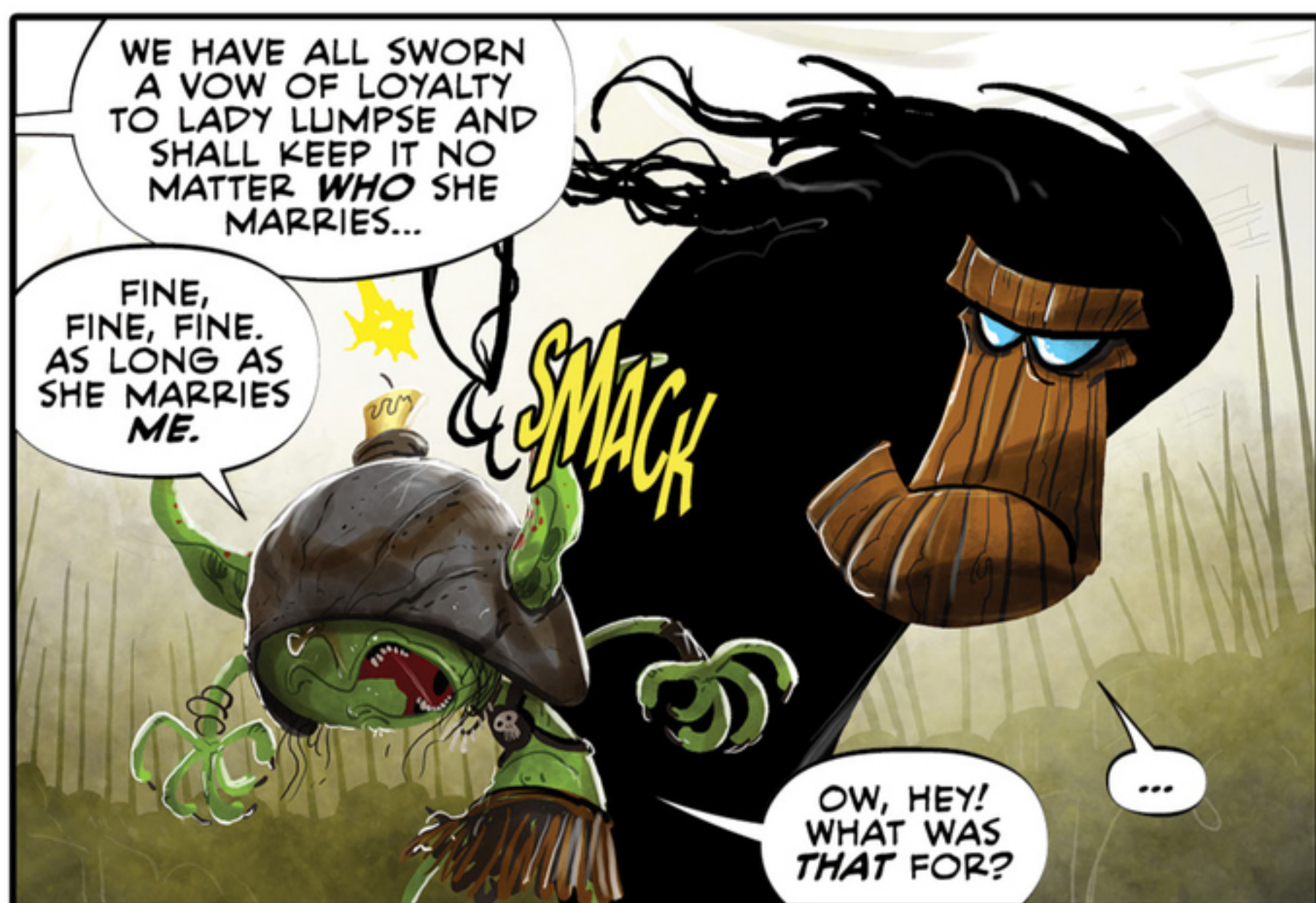
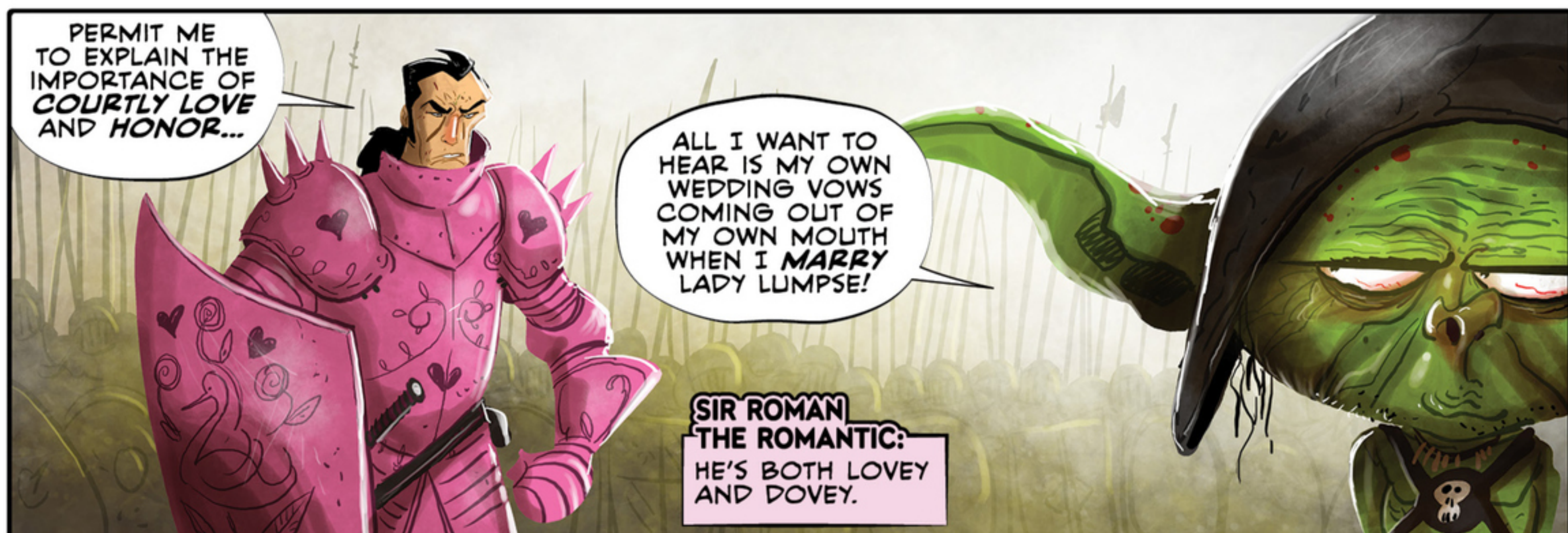
THERE'S A
BUNCH OF
TURKEYS IN A
SEXY TREE!



IS HE
INSULTING
ME, OR IS HE
SOME KIND
OF **IDIOT?**

I BELIEVE
IT'S **BOTH**,
MY LADY.

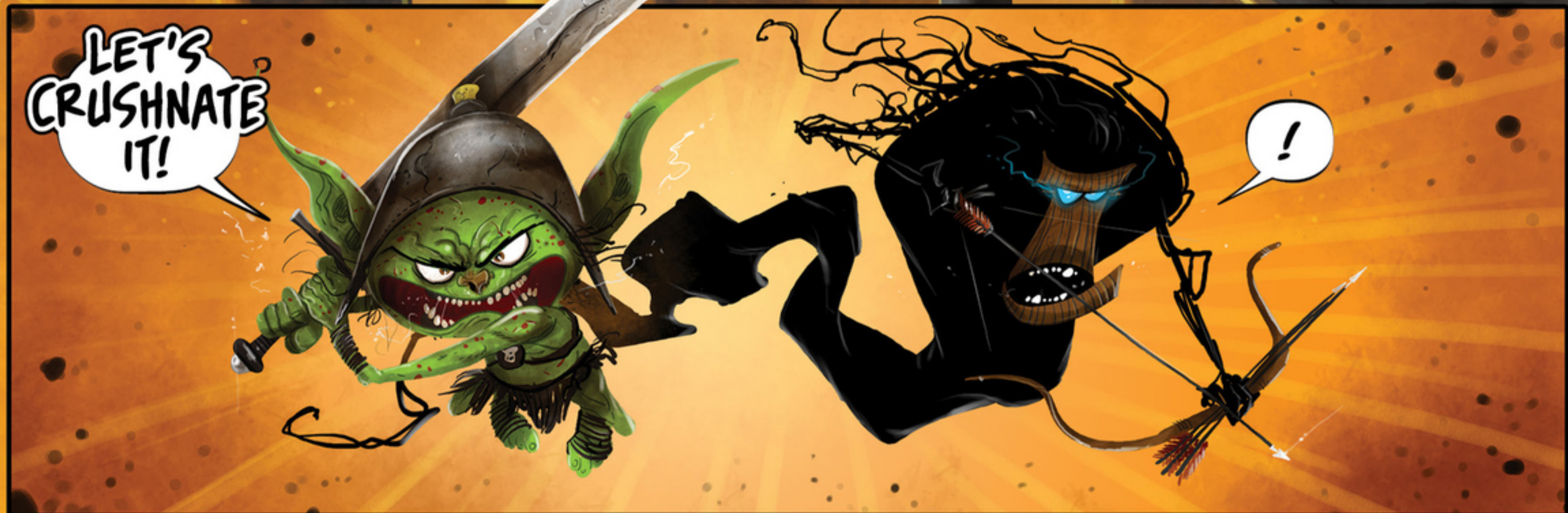
**ARREST
THAT WOMAN!
IT'S HOT IN
HERE!**





OH. THERE ACTUALLY IS AN OBSTACLE COURSE...

...



LET'S CRUSHNATE IT!

!



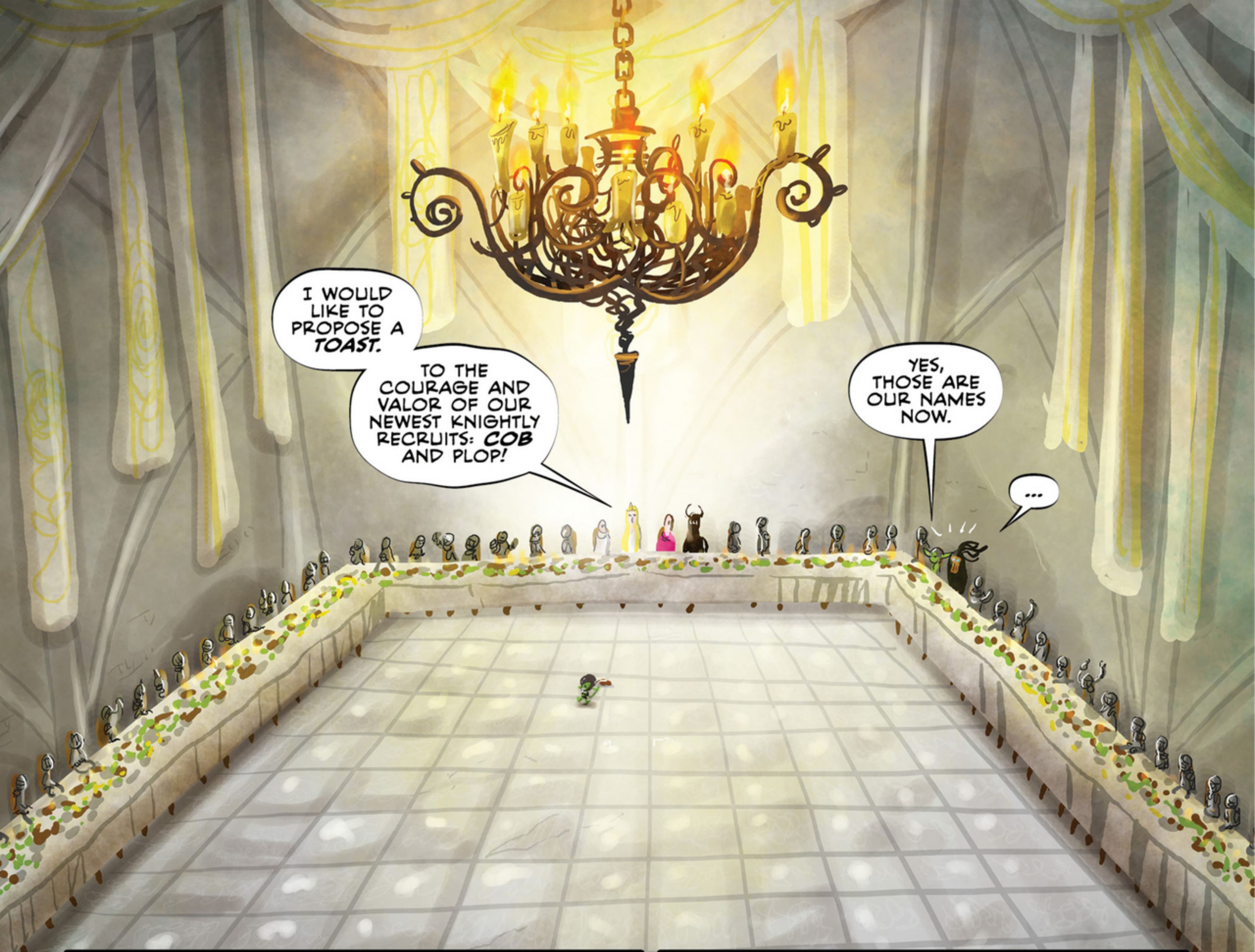
"THOSE TWO ARE...NOT TERRIBLE..."

"WAIT, DO YOU HEAR THAT?"

GRUHHH...





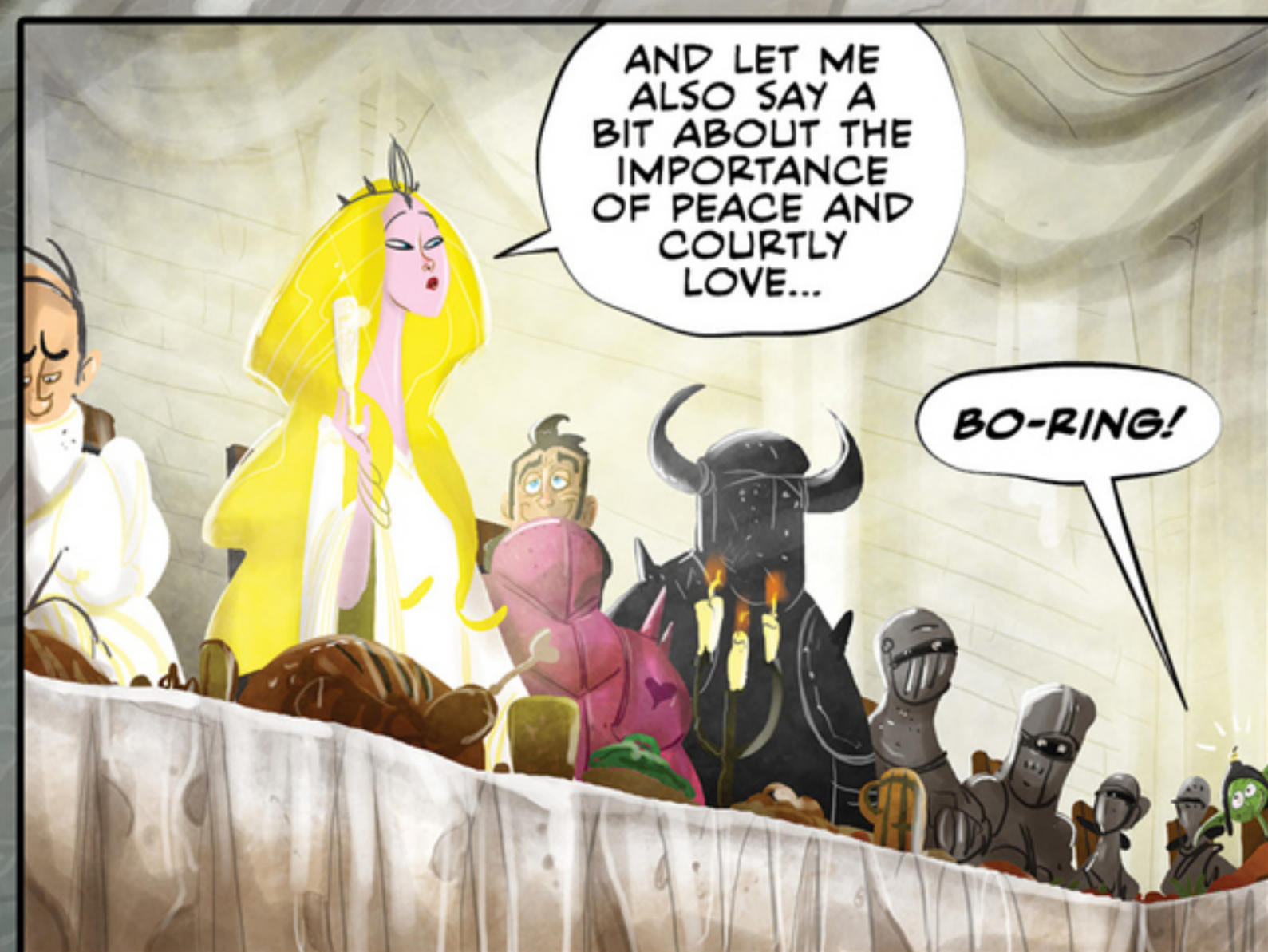


I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A **TOAST**.

TO THE COURAGE AND VALOR OF OUR NEWEST KNIGHTLY RECRUITS: **COB** AND **PLOP**!

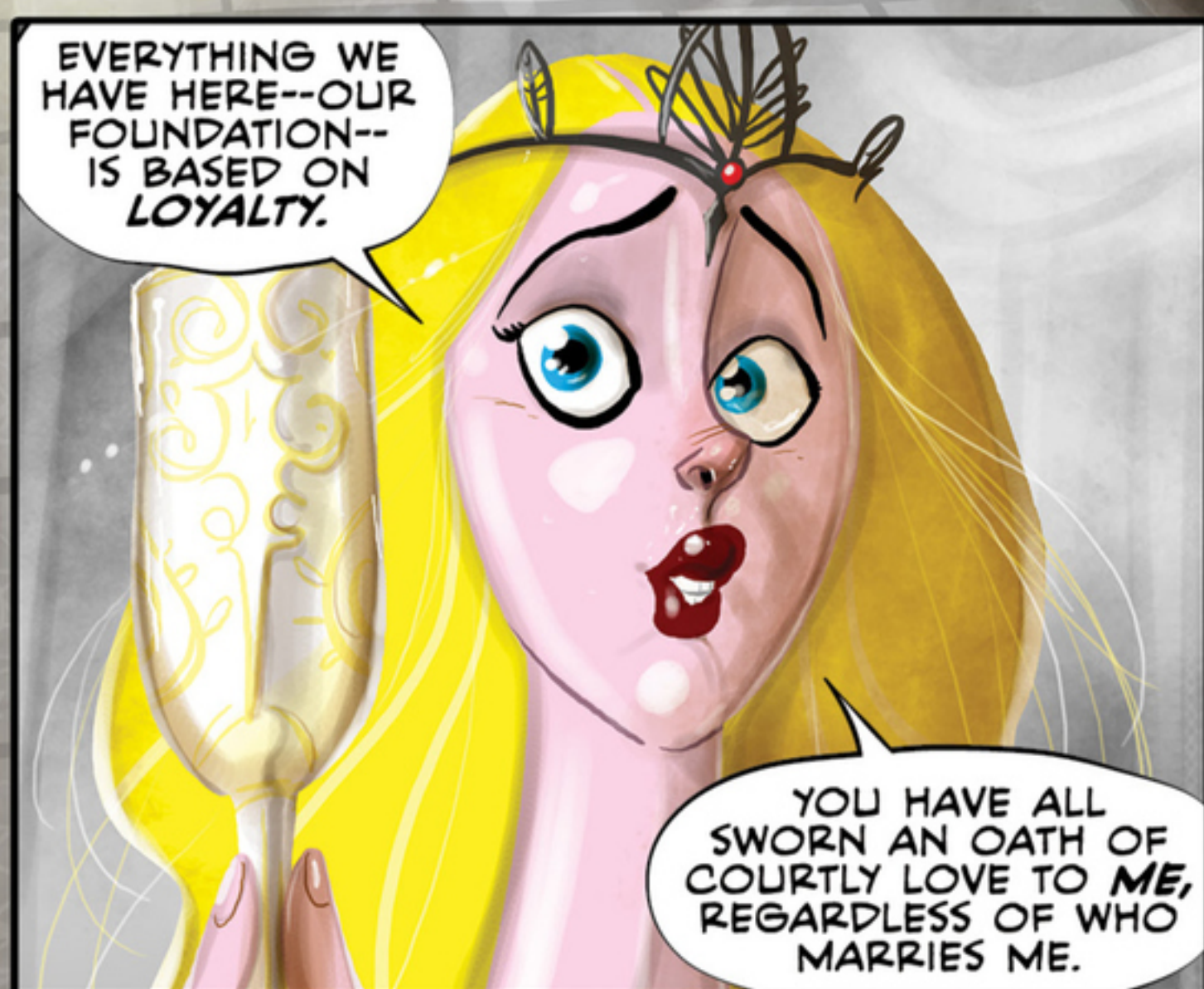
YES, THOSE ARE OUR NAMES NOW.

...



AND LET ME ALSO SAY A BIT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE AND COURTLY LOVE...

BO-RING!



EVERYTHING WE HAVE HERE--OUR FOUNDATION--IS BASED ON **LOYALTY**.

YOU HAVE ALL SWORN AN OATH OF COURTLY LOVE TO **ME**, REGARDLESS OF WHO MARRIES ME.



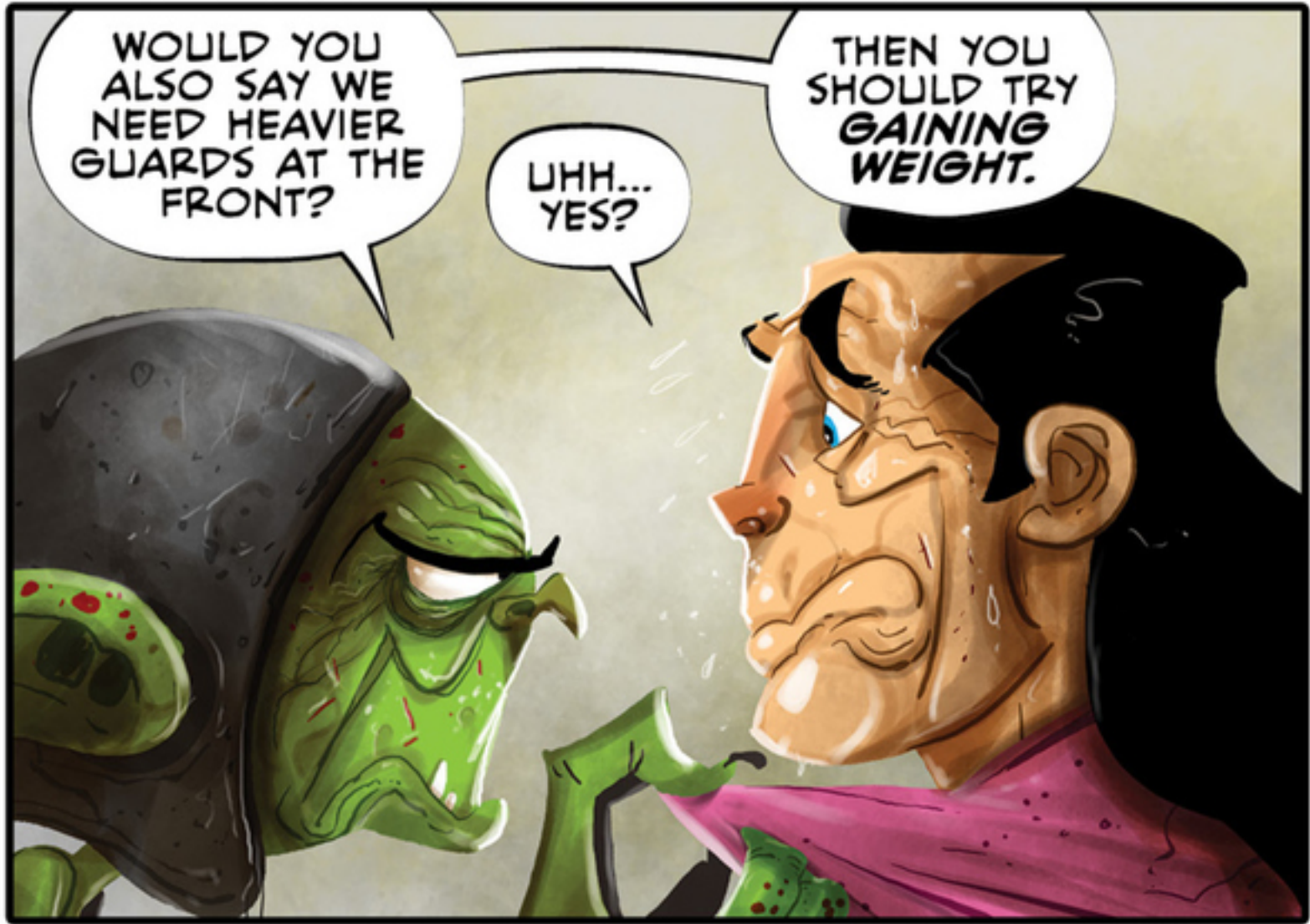
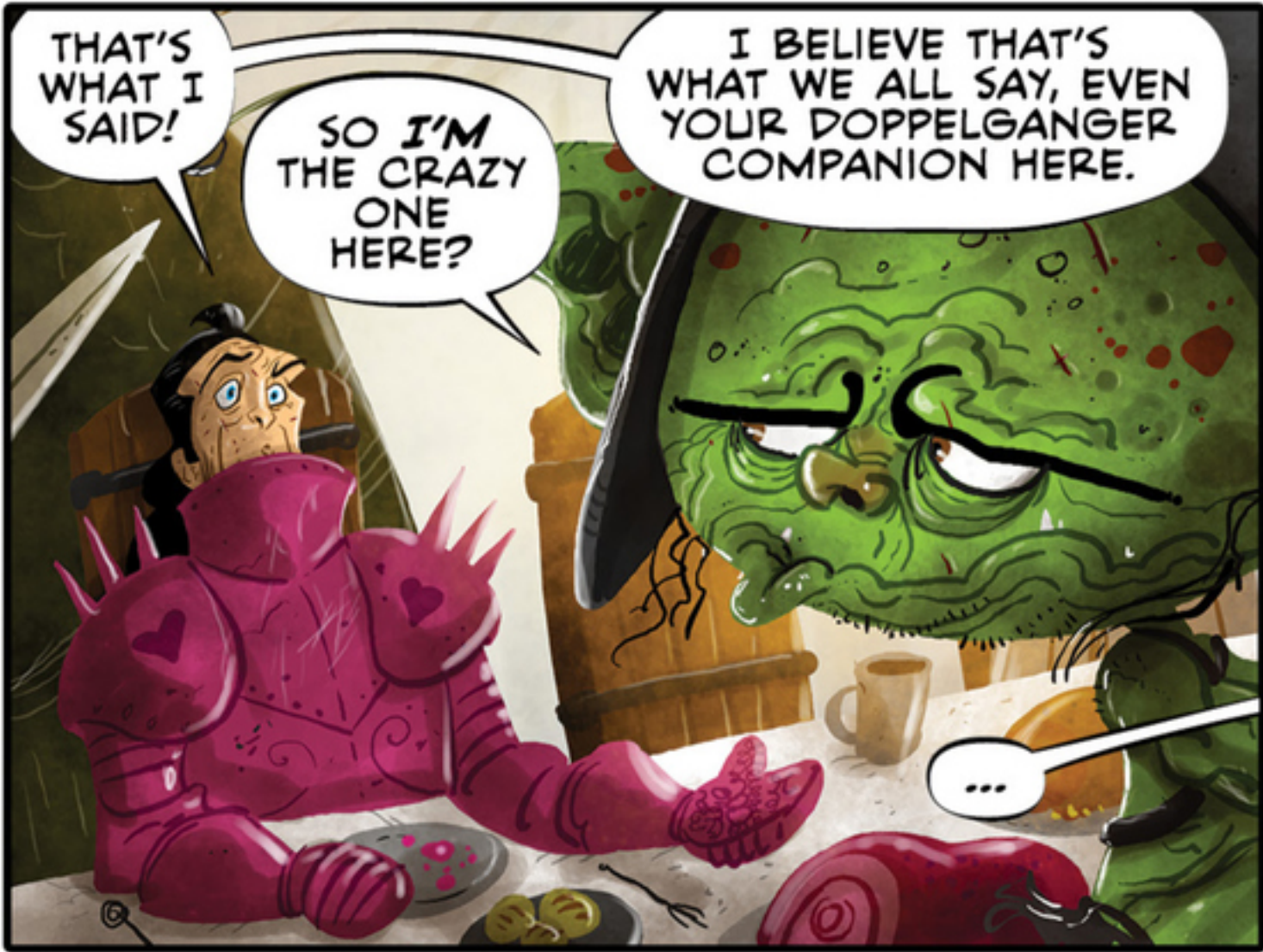
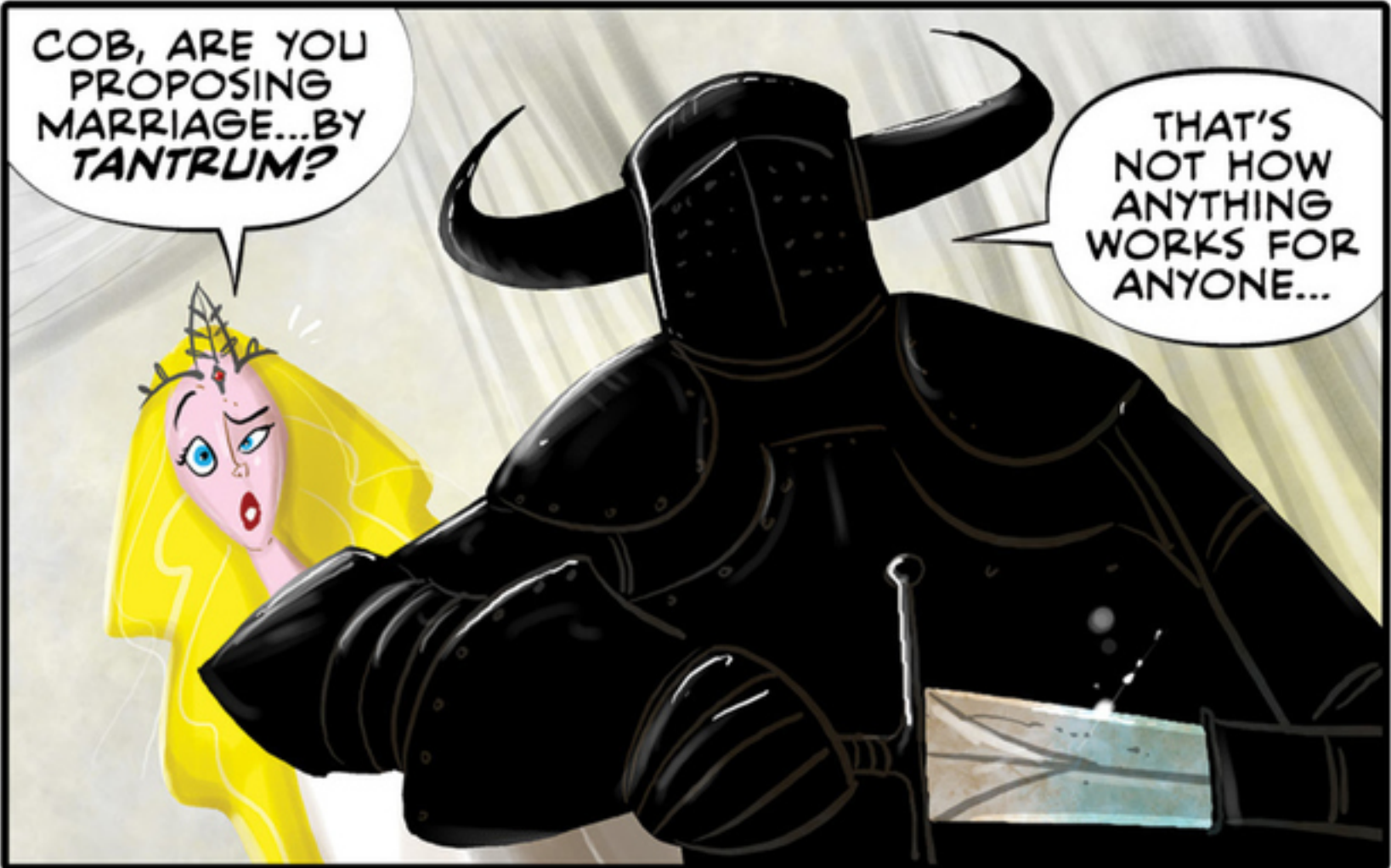
AND I'D LIKE TO COUNTEROFFER A COUNTERPROPOSAL WITH A **COUNTERTOAST**--

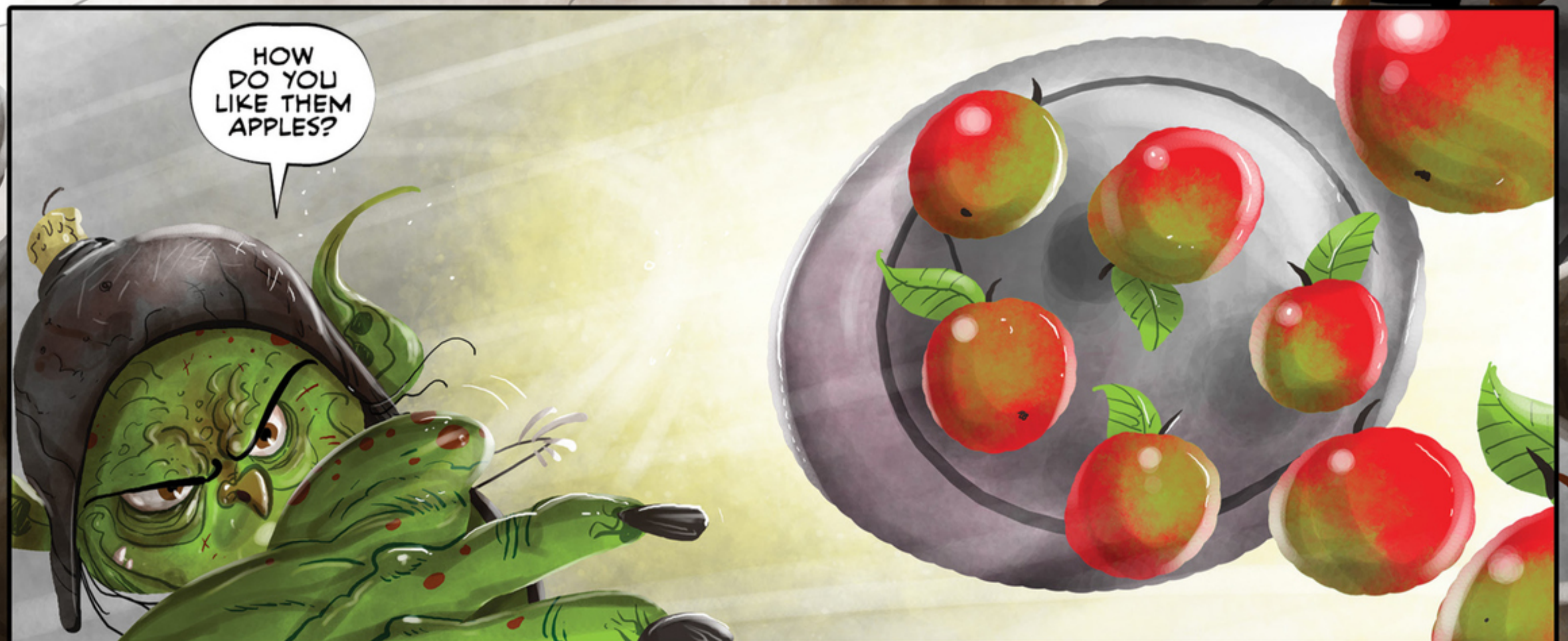
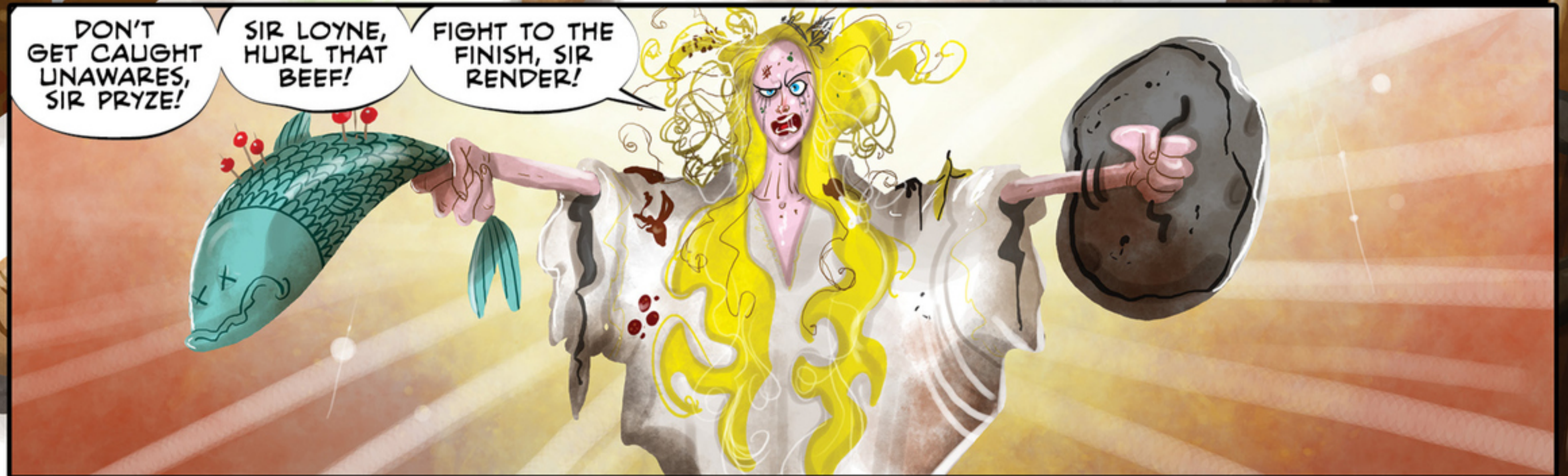
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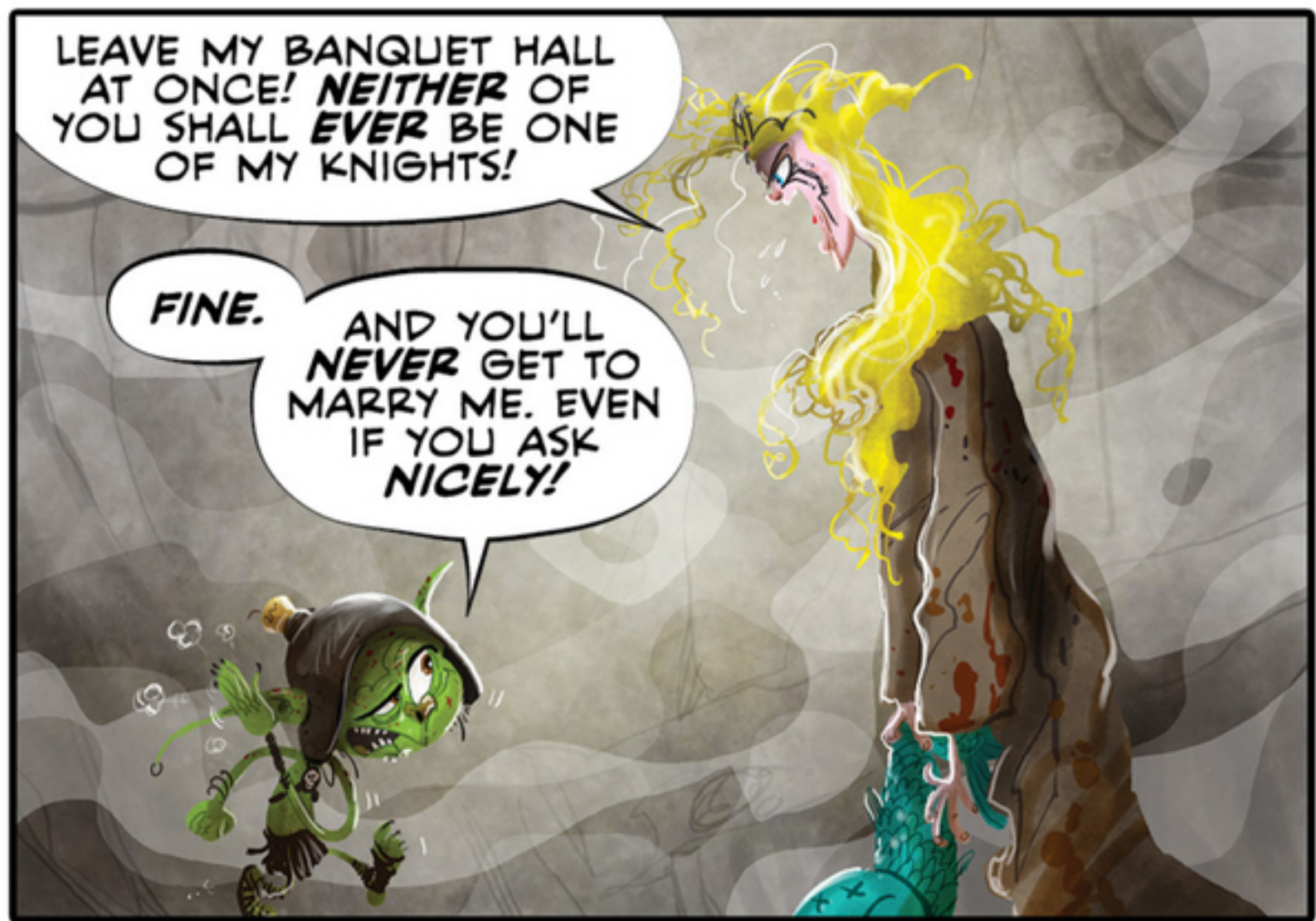
I SAY: **LOYALTY, SCHMOYALTY!**

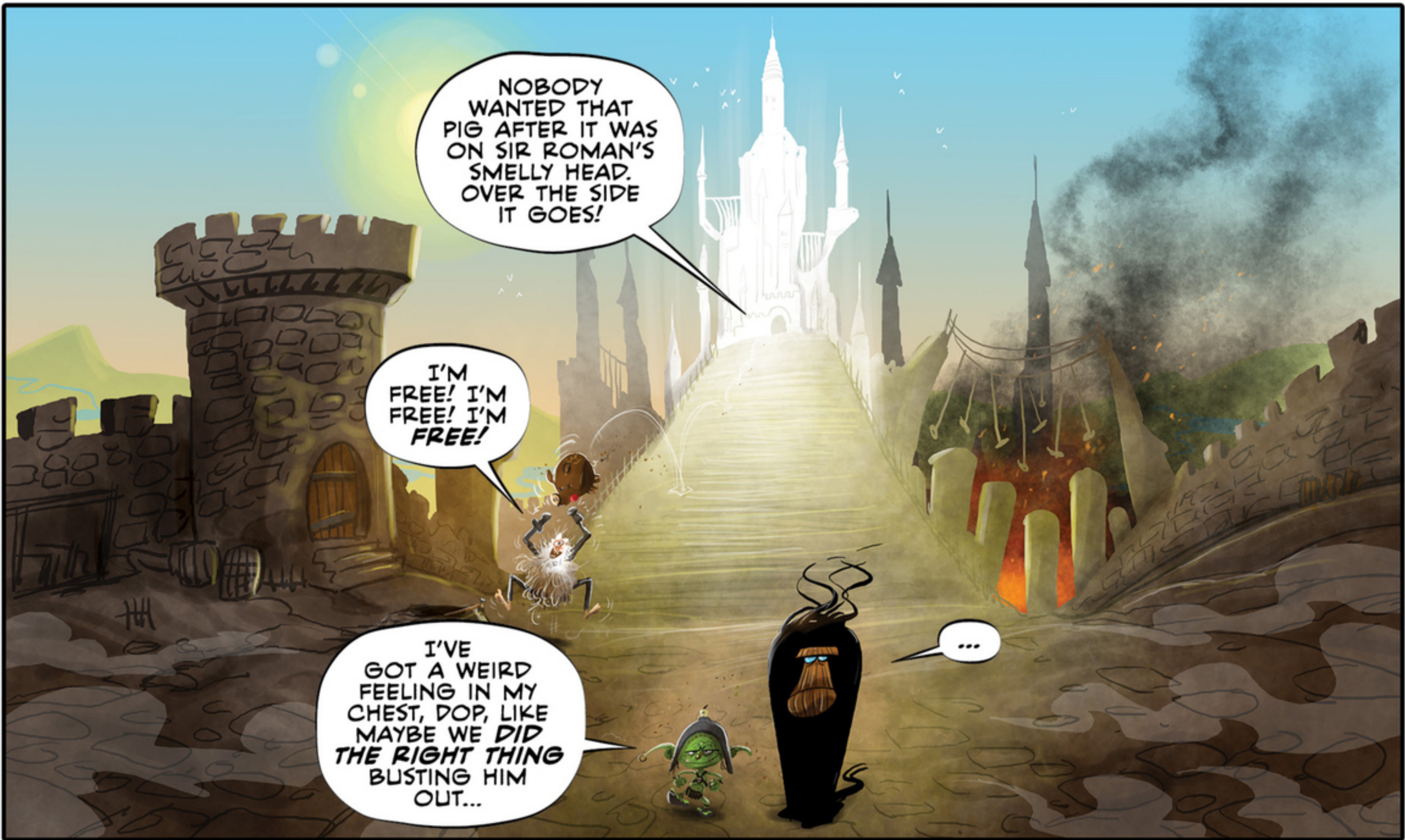
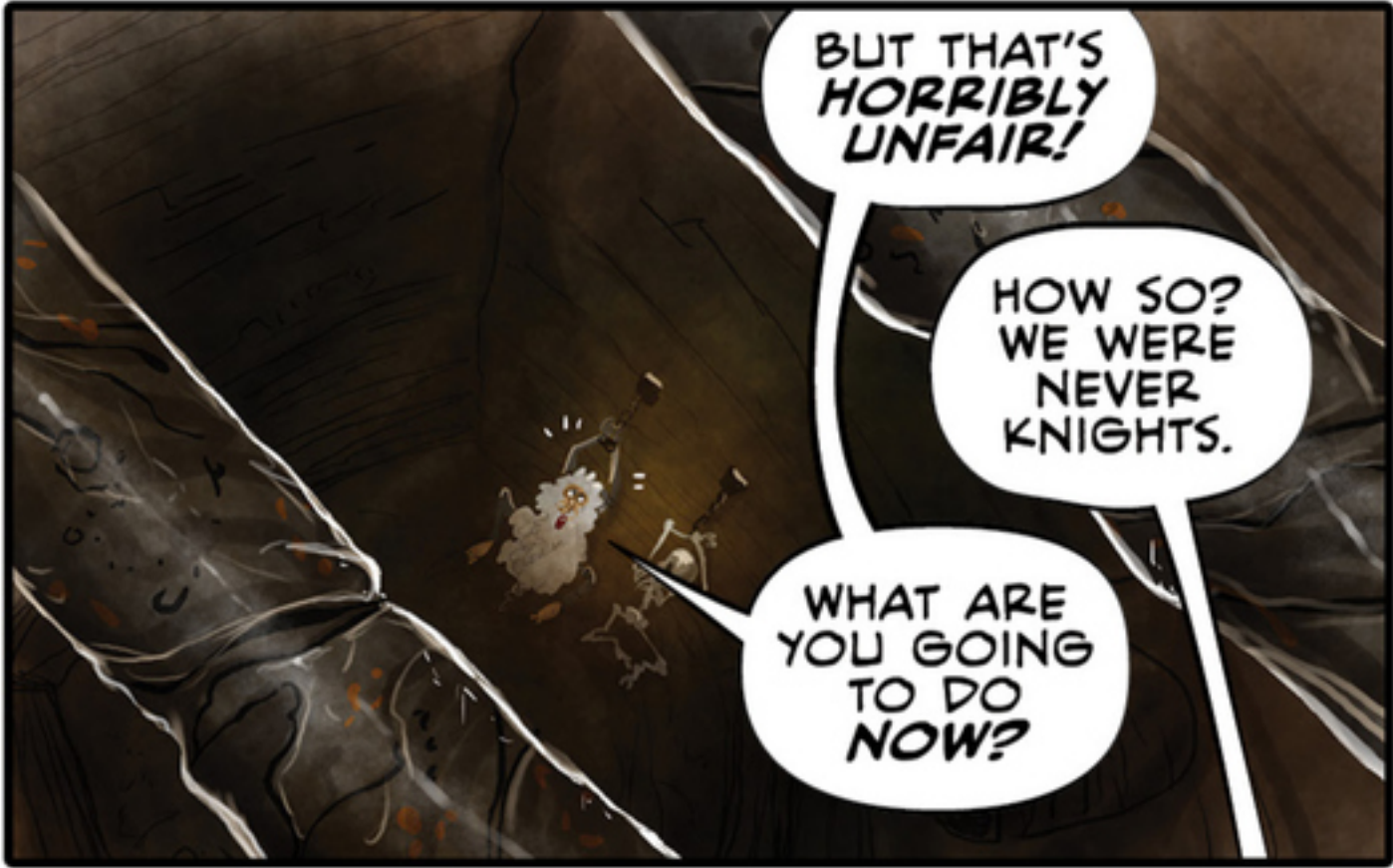
IF ANYBODY OTHER THAN **ME** MARRIES LADY LUMPSSE, I'M **DITCHING** YOU DOPES **AND** THIS JERKWATER CASTLE!



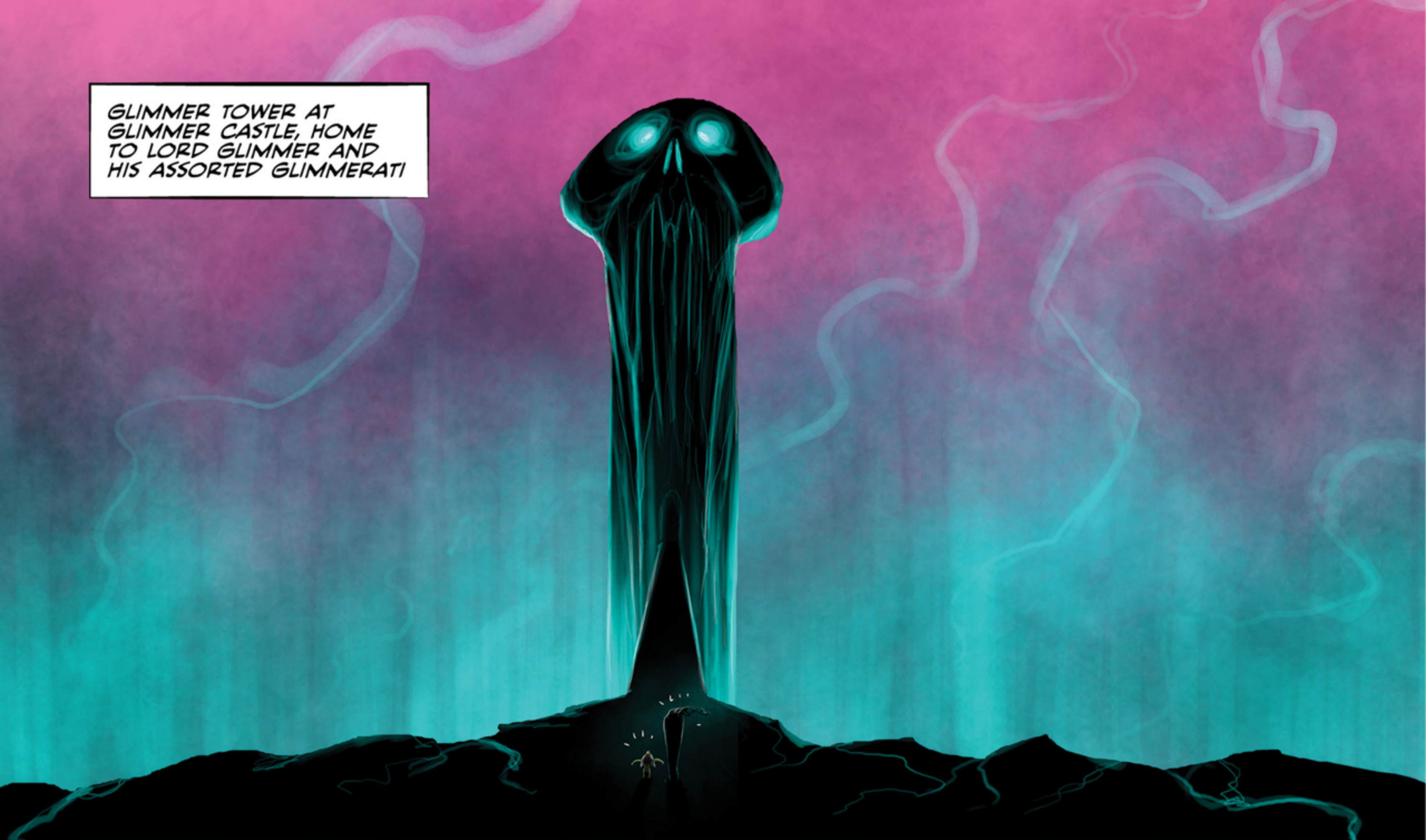








GLIMMER TOWER AT
GLIMMER CASTLE, HOME
TO LORD GLIMMER AND
HIS ASSORTED GLIMMERATI



LOOK, DOP! I
PICKPOCKETED
SOME OF THOSE
KNIGHTS WHILE THEY
WERE **BEATING ME**
UP! GENIUS,
HUH?

...



WELCOME TO
GLIMMER CASTLE! "WHERE
THE GLIMMER IS FREE!"
BUT THE CASTLE'S **ENTRY**
FEE JUST HAPPENS TO BE...
HOWEVER MANY COINS
YOU HAVE IN HERE.

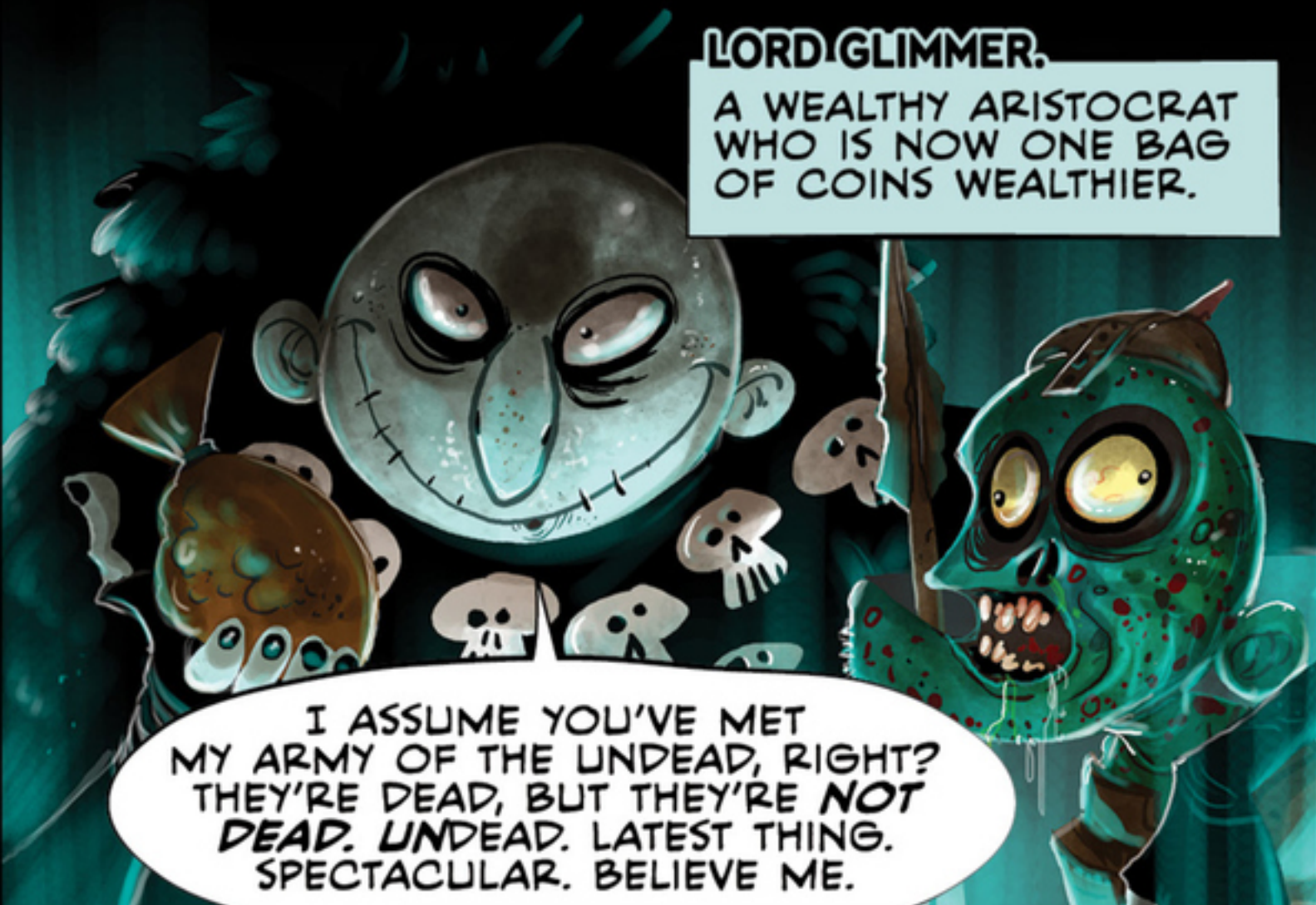
WELL,
THAT'S...
GOOD, I
GUESS?

SNAG



LORD GLIMMER.
A WEALTHY ARISTOCRAT
WHO IS NOW ONE BAG
OF COINS WEALTHIER.

I ASSUME YOU'VE MET
MY ARMY OF THE UNDEAD, RIGHT?
THEY'RE DEAD, BUT THEY'RE **NOT**
DEAD. UNDEAD. LATEST THING.
SPECTACULAR. BELIEVE ME.



IT'S GOOD WE
RAN INTO YOU, LORD
GLIMMER. BECAUSE
WE WERE HOPING
YOU'D **HIRE US** AS
MERCENARIES...

WHY
SHOULD
I HIRE
YOU?



